

Today

American Children FIRST.
What Ails the Railroads?
Why Not BREAK Contracts?
Germans, Please Shoot 1 Per Cent.

In New York city alone more than 350,000 children are underfed and may be permanently rendered inferior by this under-feeding.

That news is worse and more important than any news about the German offensive, or the capturing of 300 yards of trenches. The country can afford the MONEY that the war costs and the MEN that it must cost. But it cannot afford, and it has no right to cripple future generations, in the name of patriotism or profiteering.

Until the children of the United States have ENOUGH no food should go out of the United States. There should be no sending sugar to Canada, England, or anywhere else if children in the United States are to suffer for lack of that essential part of food.

Let grown men and women deny themselves, economize, eat little, give up pork, meat, sweets, sugar—everything.

But there should be no talk of economizing in the food of children. To starve children now is to cripple the United States in future.

Such treatment of children is a crime, whether committed by the selfish individual or the foolish Government.

Feed your children, give them ALL they need, see that they have sugar, meat, EVERYTHING needed to make them grow into strong men and women.

No matter what anybody tells you, from the top to the bottom, feed YOUR children and let other people here or abroad look after their own.

What IS the matter with the railroads? How is it that they could haul coal in abundance when they were allowed to charge anything they pleased for the hauling and coal men were allowed to charge any price they chose for the coal?

What happened suddenly to make all the coal vanish and all the railroads fall down?

Could there be anything in the suggestion that railroad and coal gentlemen are sulking? If that is so, no matter how sulky they may be, they are more foolish than sulky.

They will find the President of the United States not a pleasant man to deal with, if it turns out that they have been "laying down" to express their disapproval of Government "interference."

That is an old trick of the United States brand of railroad management, living in Wall Street, rambling in stocks, paying little attention to railroads. The idea has been "first let the public be damned, second if they don't like it ease up on deliveries and let them feel the pinch."

The public IS feeling the pinch very distinctly. Gentlemen that own railroads may feel another pinch, also very distinctly.

Two simple facts stand out. First, the Government should take the railroads, operate them, OWN THEM AND KEEP THEM.

And second, if any gentlemen have been trying to teach the public a lesson, those gentlemen, the bigger the better, should be put in a cell without any steam heat to think it over.

Scheidemann, the socialist, says "99 per cent of Germans want war ended." Why don't they shoot the 1 per cent and end it? "Eventually, why not now?"

It is announced now that prices are high, coal and food scarce, because the Government is "practically helpless."

WHY is the Government practically helpless? Because big men, seeing what was coming, made contracts in advance for vast quantities of coal—about 80 per cent of it—and also for vast quantities of food.

Well, what about it? Why not BREAK the contracts? Many little men had made arrangements to stay home with their families, attend to their children, look after their own interests.

The Government did not hesitate to break THOSE arrangements. They said to the little man, "You expected to stay at home in peace and safety. But I want you to go abroad and get shot." And the little men go.

Why not say to the big men who have made contracts for the coal and the food, "You expected to have 80 per cent of all this stuff and do as you pleased with it. I have made other arrangements. Your contracts are broken. I'll take charge of this and fix it."

It is an extraordinary thing that Government which doesn't find the slightest difficulty in taking the lives of a million men finds itself powerless to interfere with the coal contract or the food contract of half a dozen men. It shows what a high wall our Republic has built up around money.

WEATHER:
FAIR
AND
CONTINUED
COLD

NUMBER 10,378.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 15, 1917. [Closing Wall Street Prices.]

FINAL
EDITION

KAISER REPORTED PLANNING CHRISTMAS PEACE OFFER

CALLS HOOVER COMMITTEE ADJUNCT OF SUGAR TRUST

Spreckels Tells Senate Investigators of Alleged Attempt Through Food Administration to Raise Prices.

An alleged attempt by the "sugar trust" to saddle high prices on the American people for years, through the official Hoover committee, was disclosed today in the Senate investigation by Claus A. Spreckels.

The witness charged the food administration committee, "a mere adjunct of the trust," seeks to bind all American refiners to allow it to contract for future Cuban crops at its own price.

The Hoover committee, which "created" a sugar shortage, according to Spreckels, is packed with former employees of the "sugar trust," he testified.

Names Employees. "Even the watchmen are former watchmen for the American Sugar Refining Company," said Spreckels, "and E. E. Hooker, former trust employee, is a steering committee of one to whom all persons having business with the committee must apply when entering its offices."

Among those Spreckels named as holding important positions with the sugar committee were Harry C. Mott, formerly buyer for the "sugar trust," now buyer for the committee, and E. T. Gibson, former private secretary to Earl Pabst, head of the "sugar trust," and now secretary to the sugar committee.

Spreckels, under questioning by Probe Chairman Reed, stated that the price of American beet sugar would be advanced if the Hoover committee pays Cuban cane growers 5 cents a pound, as contemplated.

This compares with 2.39 cents in 1917, 2.74 three years ago, and 4.78 last year, Spreckels stated.

Would Send Prices Up. If refiners agree to this, Spreckels declared, the price to the American consumer will be unalterably fixed for years after the war, at a figure as high as at present or higher.

But unless the refiners agree to the price fixing, he said, they face loss of their Government licenses.

Spreckels said he had protested against having refiners fix the price of sugar and against Hoover's appointment of three American sugar

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COAL FAMINE BLAME IS PUT ON DEALERS AND WEAVER

50,000 Tons Delivered to District Since December 1—B. & O. Agent Declares Much Is Tied Up in Dumps.

Washington's coal shortage is in a large measure squarely up to Washington dealers and to John L. Weaver, who, as Federal fuel administrator for the District, is charged with the problem of local coal distribution, it seems from information received today by The Times.

Figures on coal receipts made public by the United States fuel administration, disclose that since December 1 more than 50,000 tons of anthracite coal and more than 25,000 tons of bituminous have been delivered in the District by the railroads.

Where Is It? Apparently nothing like this quantity, particularly of anthracite, has been delivered to householders. The demand from Washingtonians who are freezing in one of the worst cold waves ever experienced here has abated but little, if any.

D. M. Fisher, freight agent of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in Washington, stated today that coal brought to Washington is sidetracked or tied up on the dumps, and it is useless to bring more in until this is moved. It is evident that the dealers are either unable or unwilling to handle this coal.

Dealers Cannot Handle. Mr. Fisher says that the Baltimore and Ohio is bringing to Washington every day more coal than the dealers can handle.

Washington dealers are telling applicants for coal that they haven't any or can not take orders. Orders taken are long delayed. One dealer has told customers that he would give them coal if they would deliver it themselves. The average householder has no means of transferring coal. Those who make their own deliveries apparently get nothing off of the increased price fixed by the Federal Fuel Administrator, which included delivery.

Passing the "Buck." Figures on carload delivery of coal in Washington by the railroads is the only information on the local coal situation that can be obtained from those charged with administering it. Requests for information are referred from one official to another, but no information for the public as to the situation is forthcoming.

The dealers are not talking for publication. Requests for information from the office of Jesse C. Suter, appointed to keep coal coming to Washington and insure its delivery, and to superintend the office to hear complaints from residents without coal, are referred to the Publicity Department of the United States Fuel Administration. The Publicity Department has no information on the local situation except the carload receipts furnished by Mr. Suter's office. It directs inquiry to Mr. Weaver, Mr. Weaver directs it back to the Publicity Department.

Can't Locate Dumps. Even a request for a simple directory of the coal dumps in Washington is referred by the office of the District Coal Merchants' Association to the publicity department of the United States fuel administration.

Mr. Suter is too busy to get up such a list. The publicity department don't know where the dumps are located. In the meantime orders for the shipment of more coal to Washington by Commissioner Reed, of the United States fuel administration, have apparently borne fruit.

But where is the coal? The dealers have been severely handicapped in handling by blizzard weather. Deliveries are difficult on the slippery streets, and help is hard to obtain and keep. In addition, coal left standing in cars on the dumps and sidings is frozen in the cars, and must be picked out. As a consequence, there is apparently no relief.

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What the New York World Says Editorially Of the Prohibition Amendment

The New York World says editorially of the proposed prohibition amendment of the Constitution:

"By transferring to Federal authority one of the most important features of the police power of the State, would smite local self-government in its citadels. Instead of being the bulwark of the Republic, our Commonwealth would feebly be reduced to satrapies, overrun by the spies and prosecutors of centralization."

The Federal amendment would precipitate in forty-eight States bitter discussion, hatred, dissatisfaction among workmen at a time when the nation needs to be united. The World says editorially:

"Before all of them (the forty-eight States) shall have passed upon this momentous question, the country will have had two of the most distracting political and social upheavals in its history. Is this the time to let loose such controversies upon the American people?"

THE SOWER

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Germany's Latest Hymn of Hate.

ROME, Dec. 15.—Here is the latest version of Germany's psalm of hate found on a German prisoner: "Son of Germany in arms! This is our intoxication. Glory to the artillerymen of our! The gun, thy powerful, invulnerable brother, calls thee. Was it not made to move the universe?"

"O, Riflemen of ours! Then art the force which conquers even death; which not an obstacle withstands. Wherever thou goest thou enterest, wherever thou enterest there is Germany."

"O, Cavalryman of ours! Charge and overthrow. A harvest of death awaits thee. Curb that winged hurricane—the will of thy horse. That cowardly flesh is made to fatten the birds which shall be thy sons."

"Son of Germany, the great hour has come. Life does not end but surpasses itself and is transformed without a pause. The life of the vanquished is absorbed by the victor; the slayer becomes owner of the life of his slain."

"See now how in the breast of thy sacred country is contained the life of the world! Do not stoop to feminine pity toward women and children. The son of the vanquished has been eaten of the victor of tomorrow; what is the worth of victory if tomorrow we have the revenge? What kind of a reward wouldst thou be if thou bildest thine own enemy and left alive the enemy of thy son?"

"Son of Germany in arms! 'Hurl down, strike with thunder, break in pieces."

"Rush forth, overthrow, transmute, devastate."

"Burn, kill, kill, kill."

"Such is the life of glory."

400 GERMANS HAVE LEFT CITY UNDER ALIEN ENEMY LAW

Altogether about 400 German alien enemies have reported to the office of United States Marshal Spain in compliance with the President's proclamation, the time limit of which expired today, and applied for passes to permit them to take up their residences in zones which are not closed to the enemy alien. Many of these Germans are married and have taken their families with them. It is estimated that altogether about 1,250 persons, including men, women, and children, left the District. About 60 per cent of them went to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

Even though all avenues to Germany becoming citizens of the United States are closed for the time being, Max Victor Hariton, a native of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Germany, filed application for his first papers today, and they were received and placed on file by the clerk of the District Supreme Court. Hariton, who is deaf and nearly dumb, is twenty-eight years old and a lithographer by trade, and lives at 325 H street northwest. He was born in Germany April 12, 1889, of Russian parents and married a native of Russia, and came to this country in August, 1908. Hariton claims to be a Russian subject, even though born in Germany, and his application was entered accordingly. Giovanni Gardis, forty years old, tile setter, 304 Fourteenth street northwest, also applied for his first papers. He and his wife came to this country from Italy September, 1911.

Max Chiturg, who conducts a barbershop at 1201 Seventh street northwest, the father of four children who were born respectively in London, England, New York city, Birmingham, Ala., and Alexandria, Va., today applied for his final naturalization papers. The application said that he would like to have his name changed to Max Rosenberg. He came to this country from Russia in 1905.

Former Congressman A. P. Gardner of Massachusetts, who is in the army, will go to France in a short time and will fight in the trenches. Though ranking as colonel, he was in the quartermaster corps. He gave up his colonelcy and took an appointment as major in order to fight.

GERMANS THREATEN CHANNEL AND PARIS

Massing Armies Along West Front, Making It Difficult to Tell Where Blow Will Be Struck.

GENEVA, Dec. 15.—Kaiser Wilhelm's Christmas message to the German people will contain his final peace offer, according to an unofficial report received here today from Berlin.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The heavy masses of German re-enforcements being rushed to the western front from Russia are being distributed all along the battle line, making it difficult for the allies to tell exactly where the promised offensive will be launched by von Hindenburg.

The German general staff is allowing the German people to base great expectations upon the heralded drive, and advises from Berlin today quoted German papers as predicting that "both Paris and the British hold on the English Channel will be threatened when the blow falls."

Seek "Weak" Spot.

The fighting this week along the French front has been heavy at some points, but the attacks were all characterized as "feinters" by military experts. The Germans are evidently trying to locate any weak spots in the allied line.

The latest assault by the Germans was made opposite Ypres, in West Flanders, but it is regarded as doubtful if the Germans make a big effort in that district. They have already been defeated three times in battle at Ypres while trying to break the British line.

The Teutons were able to make a small gain over a front of 300 yards south of Polygon wood, but the cost of life was enormous.

Re-enforcements Strike. All along the front, from the North sea to the Swiss Alps, the German guns are in action and the re-enforcements of artillery from the east are already making themselves evident. Huge stores of ammunition have been released by the Russian breakdown, and this is being used up in continuous bombardments that pause neither for darkness nor stormy weather.

British and French military critics are making varying predictions as to the winter campaign. There is agreement upon the possibility of fighting being in progress all winter. Many believe that the German war lords will try to give the German people a victory for a Christmas gift to cheer them over a period that promises to be one of woe.

LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH IS REGARDED IN ENGLAND AS CALL TO ARMS IN CRISIS

By ED L. KEENE.
United Press Staff Correspondent.
(Copyright, 1917, by the United Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 15.—There is no use trying to camouflage the gravity of the situation on the west front—the only war theater which, in the last analysis, really counts.

Today Premier Lloyd George's speech at Grays Inn was regarded as a call to arms in a present day crisis.

The setback to British arms at Cambrai has not only practically nullified Field Marshal Haig's splendidly conceived and General Byng's splendidly executed advance, but it is generally admitted the reverse marked the end of the British offensive for some time to come.

Now Up To Hindenburg. The initiative has now passed to Hindenburg.

The most competent reports predict that only the greatest of

RUTH LAW TO FORM WOMEN'S SQUAD TO 'SHOW' WAR CHIEFS

Ruth Law, celebrated aviatrix, is today organizing in Washington the first women's flying squadron in the world, a corps of thirty-one girl aviators, to prove to the War Department that a woman can be as good a flyer as a man, and eventually to lead her girl flyers over the German trenches to drop dynamite on the Kaiser's lines.

Today she telegraphed manufacturers of airplanes in an effort to purchase the necessary machines for instruction, and will begin at once recruiting her girl flyers.

"The War Department refused to commission me in the aviation corps because I was considered an exceptional woman," she said.

"They seemed to think that no other woman could do what I have done, that no woman aviator could be as good as a man."

"I intend to prove to the War Department right here in Washington that any woman can do what I have done if properly trained. I shall get thirty-one girls and young women and teach them to fly."

"If I can prove that any one of them can operate machines as well as men, I expect to get my commission."

House Agrees to Vote On Prohibition Issue Monday at 5 o'Clock

The House today agreed to vote on the prohibition amendment to the Constitution on Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The Senate passed the resolution at the last session.

KILLS SON-IN-LAW, THEN SELF, OVER LEGAL DISPUTE

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Albert Rochet, head of an old and prominent Buffalo family, committed suicide today after killing his son-in-law, Dr. John M. Shafer, and wounding his daughter, Alma.

The tragedy came as a climax to litigation over property. After shooting Shafer, Rochet went to his office, inscribed a letter relating his domestic troubles, and laying the blame on his son-in-law, Rochet shot himself as the police were forcing his office door.

RAID REVEALS BIG 'WHISKEY "STILL" IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15.—Federal agents, in a sensational midnight raid, discovered the first whiskey still since the Federal law prohibiting distilling during the war went into effect. As a result Philip Klein, a dealer of this city, is spending today in jail, pending further hearings.

Two Startling Stories in The Sunday Times

Preston Gibson's Own Story of the Front

As an ambulance driver, this Washington society man has won special recognition. He has written a vivid story of his experience that will thrill every one who reads it.

Supporting a Family of 12 on a Clerk's Salary

If you want to realize the problems of the underpaid Government clerk, read this remarkable story of how one of them and his family has to live. It will make you content with your lot.

YESTERDAY
The Washington Times
GAINED
16,578 Lines of Advertising (59 Cols.)
Over the Corresponding Day (Dec. 15) Last Year.
EDGAR D. SHAW,
Publisher.